Your second major assignment will focus on Thomas Mann's Death in Venice. You may write a paper or do a project.

If you choose to write a paper: please write 1,000 - 1,200 words on one of the following topics, in standard format.

1. Please consider the tension between beauty and decay in the novella. Where do you see these concepts come into play? What larger statement might Mann be making about the value, or lack of value, in beauty?
2. Please consider air, and the examples of air, in the novella. What do you think the many references to air, wind and breathing symbolize?

Please remember that this paper is your own reflection on the works we have read in class, which you will back up with evidence from the text (quotes, paraphrases, and summaries). Your paper should be written in the third person, in appropriate academic tone.

Be sure to have a clear thesis. You are making a specific argument about the novella. Your paper should be based solely on your reading and interpretation of the text. **Outside sources are not permitted.** Quotes should be well-chosen but short, and should not comprise more than 20 percent of the paper. (I am interested in your thoughts, rather than seeing strung-together quotes). Papers should be in standard American English and in standard format: double-spaced, Times New Roman, 12 point, and written in the third person (no "I/me"). Rough drafts due on Fri. April 1. Final drafts are due on Fri. April 8.

Papers will be graded on:

- accurate understanding and thoughtful response to the source text;

- creativity and intellect (papers that merely repeat what has been said in class are not impressive);

- correct use of standard American English.

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If you choose to do a project: Please do a Glog (online poster) presentation, focusing on Venice as a place, or on cultural and personal decadence in Death in Venice. (We will have a lesson in class, showing how to create a Glog. You can also view a video by going to <http://www.atomiclearning.com/highed/en/>, and plugging in your BCCC username and password). Your project will have a thesis: that is, you will be arguing a point about the role of Venice as a setting, or the role of decadence in Venice. Your project should feature nine examples from the text. Each example should include a direct quote and an appropriate image or multimedia link. Students doing the project will each make a 5-7 minute presentation to the class, and must turn in a one-page written statement on how each quote and image relates to his or her thesis, as well as a Works Cited page (identifying the sources of your images is more important than perfect formatting). While a rough draft is not required, students do need to send me a message through the Assignments key, indicating their intention to do a project, by April 1.

If you choose to do a project, do not leave it until the last minute; you may need to spend some time at MindSpace, in the library, if you need technical help. Remember that this project should take about the same amount of time as a four to five-page paper, so your work should be of a high caliber. Projects will not be considered complete or passable without the one-page statement, which is due April 1, and should be submitted through the assignments key, along with a link to the Glog. IMPORTANT: Your Glog must have your name on it.

Glogs will be graded on:

-Evidence that the student dealt with the source text in a thorough and thoughtful manner;

-Demonstration of creative thought in relation to the source text;

- Progress report and final statement presented in appropriate standard American English.

- Professional-style, well-practiced class presentation.

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